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Sunset Beacon

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Crowd Protests Plan to Close Upper Great Highway

By Thomas K. Pendergast

More than 100 people lined the steps in front of City Hall on July 23 to protest against permanently closing the Upper Great Highway for motor vehicle traffic between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard.

A ballot measure is slated to go before San Francisco voters in November which, if passed, would prohibit cars, with a stated goal of ultimately converting the space into an oceanfront park.

In June, San Francisco District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio submitted the ballot measure with the backing of fellow supervisors Myrna Melgar, Dean Preston, Matt Dorsey and Rafael Mandelman just before the deadline for the next election, a move that caught some off guard. Opponents quickly organized to resist closing what they see as a vital north-south traffic artery.

"As a veteran who lives on the south side of the Great Highway, it is my access road to get to the VA Hospital when I need it," said Leanna Louie, one of the protest organizers. "And it makes a big difference; not having the Great Highway open doubles my time going from my home to the VA Hospital.

"There are many people here who are in professions where they're required to use the Great Highway," she said.

Former San Francisco Police Department commander and a fourth-generation San Franciscan who graduated from George Washington High School, Richard Corriea, does not like a few things about the proposed ballot measure, including the timing of when it was submitted.

"It's sneaky politics to stuff

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Classic Parkside Diner Harkens Back to the 1950s

By Roman Fong

A Parkside neighborhood staple, the Tennessee Grill, has remained at its original location for more than 70 years, serving American and Asian-inspired food.

Located on Taraval Street near the corner of 22nd Avenue since 1952, the two-room diner radiates a welcoming atmosphere, characterized by the lively open kitchen, diner-style booths and peach-painted walls with lime green trim.

Owned by Kyaw Soe since 2017, the Tennessee Grill serves not only as an affordable option for classic diner food, but also as an important social hub for longtime customers and the local neighborhood.

Soe's connection to the Tennessee Grill began in 1998 when he immigrated to San Francisco from Myanmar (formerly known as and referred to by Soe as Burma). He began work-

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Tennessee Grill owner Kyaw Soe outside his Taraval Street restaurant. *Photo by Roman Fong.*

SFCTA Exploring Westside Subway Under Geary, 19th Ave.

By Thomas K. Pendergast

Talk of Muni expanding its underground light rail system to the west side of the City got some traction from San Francisco County Transit Authority (SFCTA) officials during two Zoom meetings last month.

The SFCTA is exploring the extension of Muni's subway system to run beneath Geary Boulevard in the Richmond District and then south under 19th Avenue through the Sunset District.

"Our current study phase aims to lay out the strategic framework for the project in terms of broad benefits, costs and planning issues, and to identify the road map for advancing the project over time," said SFCTA's Rail Program Manager Jesse Koehler, referring to the Geary/19th Avenue Subway Regional Connection Study.

"We are in the very early stages of discussion and analysis for this project, and the community's input and engagement are critical to shape this work."

The study was first requested by District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar.

"The west side still has a long way to go in terms of developing our infrastructure for so many things, including housing and transit to serve future generations and to help take us along on this climate crisis," Melgar said. "A regionally connected rail subway under Geary Boulevard and 19th Avenue has the promise and the potential to transform how this future development all over the west side will shape our area. It will connect our city and the west side to the rest of the Bay Area and beyond.

"It will attract new riders," she said. "It will connect new residents to the rest of the world. And it will provide us an opportunity to design this into the future, to fund it, to think and dream of the future for our community, to engage the community and to make sure that it reflects our needs and our priorities and that it will connect us to the rest of the (SF Bay) areas."

Project Manager Andrew Heidel is the principal transportation planner for SFCTA and the project manager.

"Aligning a Geary subway with a new Transbay Rail Crossing in the east and connecting it with a 19th Avenue connection to San Mateo County in the south allows the project to act as a broader part of the regional East Bay to Peninsula connection, while also serving parts of San Francisco that today are not well connected to the regional transit network," Heidel said.

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Dahlias, SF's Official Flower, Star in Annual GG Park Show

By Linda Badger

Members of dahlia societies from all over California, Oregon and Idaho will be coming to San Francisco's Annual Dahlia Show Aug. 17 and 18 at the Hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park to display their best blooms and to compete for coveted prizes, such as "best in show," "best arrangement," and "nature's oddities."

The public can attend for the prize of being surrounded by dahlias of all colors, sizes and shapes, from the button-sized, honeycomb-like "Pompons" to the big, showy "Dinnerplate Dahlias."

According to Dahlia Society member Deborah Dietz, this year's show will be impressive, with 1,000 cut dahlias on display. Bouquets of dahlias, with "Paris Olympics" themes, will be exhibited, including "High Jump" arrangements taking dahlias to new heights and "Seine" bouquets utilizing water features. Special photo opportunities will be made available so visitors can take selfies while surrounded by a profusion of colorful dahlia blooms. While the show's prizes will be awarded by expert judges, visitors will get a chance to vote for their favorite blooms to select this year's winner of the prestigious "people's choice" prize.

Dietz noted that "roving ambassadors" – dahlias experts – will be on hand during the show to answer questions from the public about growing and tending to dahlias in their own gardens. The cool, temperate climate of San Francis-

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Flowers of many colors and shapes bloom every summer at the Dahlia Dell next to the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. *Photo by Andy Fischer.*

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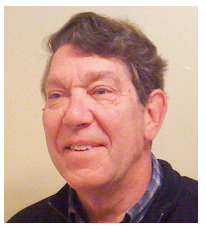

Paul Kozakiewicz

West Side Thrown Under the Bus

So much for transparency!

District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio worked for months to plot the closure of the Upper Great Highway (UGH) to vehicular traffic but said nothing to the people he works for. He did not speak with local residents, community groups or merchant organizations in the Sunset, Parkside and Richmond districts while the city attorney's office was drafting and reviewing language for the ballot measure.

On June 18, the last day that the SF Board of Supervisors could put an initiative on the Nov. 5 ballot, Engardio pounced, with the assistance of District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar, and sent the legislation to the SF Department of Elections.

The rationale that Engardio used to justify putting the fate of the UGH in citywide voters' hands boggles the mind. He says the board of supervisors will make a decision next year to close the UGH to private vehicles and that this way, District 4 residents can vote now to keep it open. He implies he knows who will win the six supervisors' seats up for grabs as well as the race for mayor. Did the people of the Sunset know they were hiring a fortune-telling Nostradamus as their supervisor?

Plan Does Not Make Sense

Engardio's initiative to close the UGH will go before a citywide electorate, where the bicycle coalition, Walk SF and other anti-vehicle regressive organizations will harp the benefits of a great oceanside park. It will be a tough for Sunset residents to get the word out with less than three months to go before votes start rolling in.

Engardio's ballot measure would:

• Create more divisiveness on the west side of the City by pitting neighbor against neighbor – those who need the roadway for safe, efficient and climate-friendly transportation against those who believe a great park will draw visitors from around the world.

• Immediately stop the three-year pilot program currently in force on the UGH that allows commuters to use the roadway during weekdays and closes the roadway for other uses on the weekends. (The current pilot program is set to expire at the end of 2025.)

• Foreclose any compromise solution where vehicles could be allowed co-access with bikers and pedestrians, including a proposal by District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan to keep two lanes open for traffic and dedicating two lanes for other uses.

• Not provide research, studies or money to create or even study the possibilities of a new park. Engardio's measure only halts private vehicles from using the UGH. His grand park is only a pipe dream.

• Divert up to 20,000 vehicles a day from the UGH to Sunset Boulevard and 19th Avenue, two high-risk injury corridors, in direct conflict with the City's Vision Zero plan. With more vehicles driving longer distances with more stops, it is obvious there will be more air pollution.

• The UGH would still have to be maintained as a roadway, with constant sand removal, as the initiative allows police, fire and city vehicles 24-hour access.

At a meeting of the People of the Parkside Sunset (POPS) in July, mayoral candidate Dan Lurie took a principled stand to oppose the closing of the UGH because it is not well thought out and because of the sneaky way it was put on the ballot.

"This isn't how you govern," Lurie said.

Mayoral candidate and SF Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin and Chan also oppose the initiative.

Sunset Residents Misled, Lied To

The UGH was closed to vehicle traffic in 2020 so city residents could have some open space during the COVID-19 international health crisis. At the time, public officials guaranteed the traffic closures would be temporary.

That changed when then-District 4 Supervisor Gordon Mar proposed a plan to close the roadway to traffic from Fridays at noon until Monday mornings. He subsequently got the supervisors to sign-off on the three-year pilot program.

It was just two years ago when Sunset and Richmond residents were forced to fight for the reopening of the UGH and JFK Drive in Golden Gate Park. They worked hard to get it on the ballot (Proposition I) but the fight was lost when several members of the SF Board of Supervisors put a competing measure on the ballot (Proposition J).

Now, Sunset and Richmond district residents have to rally again because Engardio has thrown them under the bus.

With little more than three months until the election, they have to raise money, seek endorsements, gather ballot arguments, organize volunteers, print literature, conduct press conferences, create a speakers' bureau and all of the other things necessary to run a citywide campaign. And it will be difficult to win in November when San Francisco voters see that our supervisor, as well as SF Mayor London Breed, fully support the closure of the roadway for the promise of a non-existent park.

But, only the voters in District 4 will determine Engardio's fate if there is a recall election or when he is up for re-election in 2026.

SFPUC Only "Retreating" Roadway

Engardio says the closure of the UGH between Sloat Boulevard and Skyline Drive is a done deal, and that vehicle traffic will have to be diverted around the SF Zoo. The SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) originally called for the Westside Treatment Center and a portion of the UGH to be vacated so the Pacific Ocean could claim a part of the beach for "managed retreat." It was too expensive to shore up the beach with rocks and sand every year, the SFPUC said.

But a funny thing happened a couple of months ago. The SFPUC now says it will build a seawall and dump sand in as needed to protect the Westside Treatment Center. So much for managed retreat.

According to the SFPUC's website (sfpuc.gov), the plan is to "construct a buried wall to protect wastewater infrastructure and recycled water facilities from shoreline erosion, and cover with sand every year, as needed, to maintain a wider beach." (This has the surfer community up in arms as it risks one of the best spots for surfing in the City.)

So now we are back where we started, except for the removal of the UGH in that area.

It could be argued that the SFPUC's plan harms the environment more than it helps by needlessly redirecting traffic to longer commutes through the neighborhood with many more stops.

Engardio should be fighting to reopen the UGH between Sloat and Skyline boulevards, and to restore the roadway back to the way it was before the phony claims of "managed retreat" were used to close the roadway.

Send Money, Volunteer

The Open the Great Highway organization has been working to reopen the roadway since politicians first started lying about it. To volunteer or to donate, go to openthegreathighway.com.

Paul Kozakiewicz is an editor and former publisher of the Sunset Beacon and Richmond Review newspapers.

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The members of the Park-Presidio Sunset Lions Club have been serving our community for the past 75 years. We continue to do so despite the challenges of a pandemic. Soon, we will resume regular meetings and invite our west side neighbors to participate.

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Nothing Up His Sleeve: Joe Pon's Inner Sunset Misdirections Magic Shop Perseveres

By George Brown V

Many passersby walking along Ninth Avenue in the Inner Sunset find it hard to resist popping their faces into the cardboard cutout of a magician pulling a bunny out of a hat just outside of Misdirections Magic Shop.

The window display is just as entrancing, with a tower of Magic 8 Balls and a myriad of magic props. Inside, lights illuminate the walls that are lined with numerous peculiar card decks, pranks – including the classic rubber chicken and snakes in a can – and various magic tricks designed to fool anyone. Although the items on display in this shop are captivating, what draws you in is actually Joe Pon's amiable smile.

Pon, a native San Franciscan, opened up his family-owned establishment, Misdirections Magic Shop, 28 years ago. He selected the location of his store because it is in the safe, family-friendly neighborhood of the Sunset in close proximity to Golden Gate Park.

"The secret of magic is misdirection," Pon said, recalling how he came up with the name for his renowned magic emporium.

Misdirections boasts hundreds of tricks, all of which Pon has memorized and can perform. He does not just sell magic tricks. Pon analyzes a customer's level of magic expertise so he can recommend what tricks are most suitable.

"I'm not just looking to sell you tricks, but I'm always looking for what is right for you," Pon said.

Pon's lifelong devotion to magic began when his uncle mesmerized him with a magic trick as a 5 year old.

"I loved magic, and I kept practicing and studying it to perfect it as I was growing up," he explained.

Although Pon does not perform magic shows anymore, he finds the time to do many more things within his shop. He also teaches magic to people of all ages, from beginners to seasoned pros, educating them in all aspects of magic that he believes they need to know based on their skill level and experience.

"I don't just teach you how to practice the technique. The real part of being a magician is how you present it," Pon said. His students, many of whom similarly became inspired during childhood, look to him to master the art of magic.

"My grandfather showed me a card and made it vanish when I was a kid," Syd, one of Pon's students, said. "I was specifically into card magic and was looking for a teacher, so I came to Joe."

Greg, who has been mentored by Pon for the past four years, found that his fascination with illusion led him to Pon as well.

It is this community of passionate magicians that has allowed Misdirections Magic Shop to last for so many years, even withstanding the COVID-19 pandemic and the power

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Joe Pon, magician and entrepreneur at Misdirections Magic Shop on Ninth Avenue, between Lincoln Way and Irving Street, has been the master of illusion for nearly 30 years. ***Photo by George Brown V.***

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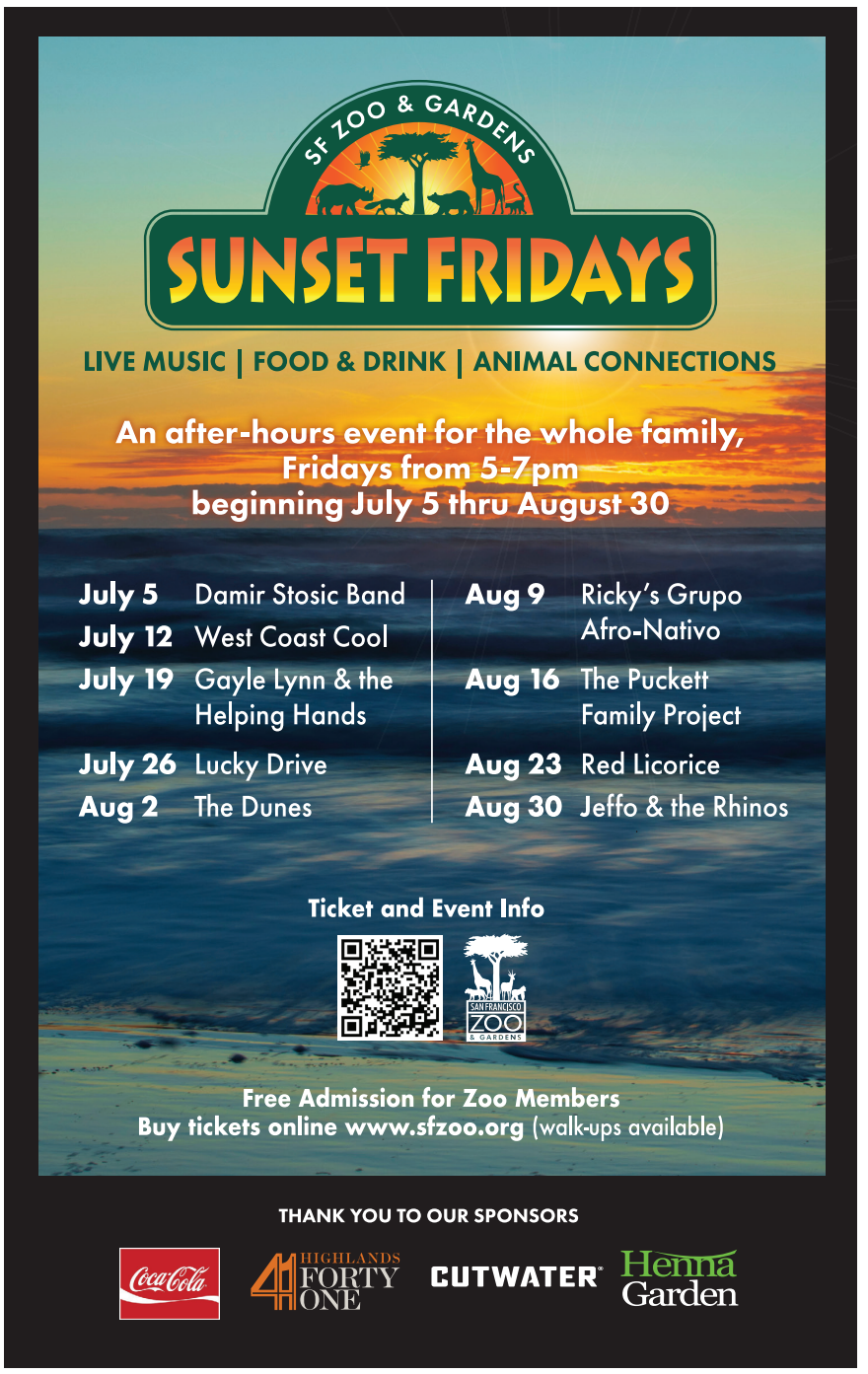
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Real Estate

John M. Lee

The Right Time to Buy?

This is the question I get asked almost every day: "Is this the right time to buy real estate?" People ask this for several reasons depending on who they are.

Are they a first-time home buyer looking to move into their first home? Are they a trade up buyer looking for something larger and better? Are they investors wanting real estate income? Everyone is looking to make the right decision.

Another comment I often get is: "Why is San Francisco real estate so expensive? I don't know if I will ever be able to afford a home here. Are you sure that this is a good investment?"

In order to answer these questions, let's review the recent market to see where we are in the real estate cycle. My frequent readers can tell you that our real estate cycles are about 10 to 12 years long, with about seven years up and four years down to flat. We hit a low point in our cycle in 2010, and went up until about 2022, after COVID-19, and then we saw a drop. Now our prices have stabilized.

The most important factor that affected this cycle was the mortgage rate. We were at approximately 5% in 2010 and, through a series of fluctuations, went to about 2.75% at its low in 2022. There was one last big push in the market in the spring of 2022 before the rates went up to about 7.5% by the end of 2023.

Needless to say, this decreased the number of buyers in the marketplace and led to a slowdown from which we are recovering. We are currently two years into this down phase of the cycle and the interest rate is starting to decline. It is currently at about 6.5%. What has saved this market from plummeting any further is the "lock in" effect. That is, the buyers who purchased the last few years and owners who refinanced to the lower interest rates the last few years are deciding not to put their properties on the market, thus limiting our listing supply.

During the last down cycle, we also had the mortgage crisis where there were a lot of foreclosures. That added to the glut of homes on the market, fueling a downward spiral on prices. The lenders responded by tightening up underwriting guidelines to fix that problem. Although there are some foreclosures hitting the market, there have not been many, and these properties are mostly owned by well-funded entities and not banks that do not have federal oversight and do not have to unload properties at low prices. This helps to keep our real estate market prices stable.

When the interest rates were increasing, buyers were priced out of the market and also were sticker-shocked to see how much their projected monthly payments were rising. But since peaking, buyers have adjusted to the payments and prices, and have recalibrated their expectations.

If you had asked me a couple of years ago if that was the right time to buy, I would have said be careful because we were heading into an uncertain market. We were at the end of the cycle and interest rates were rising. Some still purchased because of a need to live somewhere and were still able to get into the market at lower interest rates.

Currently, we are in the flat part of the down cycle and with interest rates projected to decrease, the dangerous period is over. With the Democrats trying to win the November presidential election, they will do all they can to keep the economy going strong.

Also in most cycles, San Francisco has led the other surrounding areas in terms of pricing. But this time around, because of COVID-19, people are moving to less-dense areas, meaning out of the City. And with the availability of remote work, many employees do not have to commute every day and can manage from the suburbs. Prices in other areas have gone up faster than San Francisco of late, so you will probably see a rotation in the market where our prices will catch up.

What is the downside of buying now? The short answer is that prices will go down some more. Nobody can predict 100% accurately on pricing; however, prices have dropped from the peak already and seem to be stable at the moment. Real estate is a long-term investment, the worst you can do if you pay your monthly mortgage is that you will own your home free and clear after 30 years. And if rates were to decrease, you can always refinance to get a better rate. Now that is not a bad situation to be in.

So, if you are considering investing at this time, I would recommend evaluating everything carefully. If the right opportunity comes up, you should act on it!

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Sunset Homes Sold in July*

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1700 46th Ave.	3	2	1,187	1,210,000
2400 45th Ave.	2	1	1,198	1,280,000
2000 Ortega St.	2	1	1,340	1,320,000
1734 41st Ave.	2	1	1,150	1,358,000
1931 Funston Ave.	3	2	1,360	1,400,000
4039 Noriega St.	4	2	1,550	1,500,000
2461 21st Ave.	3	1.5	1,707	1,600,000
2000 15th Ave.	3	2	1,870	1,650,000
2478 42nd Ave.	4	3	2,178	1,750,000
1722 10th Ave.	3	2	1,446	1,807,500
1483 30th Ave.	3	1.5	1,640	1,910,000
1849 23rd Ave.	4	2.5	2,378	2,050,000
1626 12th Ave.	4	3.5	2,262	2,626,000
1449 10th Ave.	3	3	2,039	2,800,000

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

Golden Gate Park's Middle Lake Reopens After Yearslong Rehabilitation Project

By Thomas K. Pendergast

A great blue heron flies above the newly refurbished Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park. *Photo by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

A great blue heron glides just above the water at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park, then gracefully spreads its wings, feet rippling the surface as it lands with a splash and gentle wake.

Less than a week after the SF Recreation and Park Department announced years of rehabilitation efforts were finished and the lake is now officially open, people jog along a path around it, passing others sitting on wooden benches while talking or reading. A man stands next to his bicycle taking pictures of his child in the rear seat. An elderly couple walks their dog past a mother and her three daughters coming from the other direction.

Many look around with curiosity and wonder, no doubt witnessing for the first time this fantasy garden of native plants come to life, like Dorothy stepping out from her house and walking into the Land of Oz.

The path winds through towering old eucalyptus trees and willows, past newly planted ferns, conifer saplings, red alder trees and brilliantly orange California poppies along with nasturtiums further up.

An 800-foot-long creek flows down a steep hill and beneath a little wooden bridge into the lake; the water source coming from the fly-casting pools on the hilltop to the east.

Located between JFK, MLK Jr. and Chain of Lakes drives, the lake is part of a historical system of water management initially developed by park Superintendent John McLaren in the late 1890s, according to Rec. and Park. Along with nearby South and North lakes, it was created over sand dunes and seasonal ponds to utilize the Westside Basin's freshwater resources.

By the 1980s, however, the lake was more dry than wet and choked by invasive plant species.

Planning to replace the non-native plants with natives and to rehabilitate the lake began in 2018. Construction began in late 2022, after which the lake was fenced off and closed to the public.

The project totaled $10.8 million, funded by two park bonds (2012 and 2020), the City's general fund and the Rec. and Park Open Space Fund.

A new 18-inch-thick clay liner at the bottom has expanded the lake size from 56,890 square feet to 83,230 square feet.

In addition to the scenic trail wander-

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Westside Subway Study

Continued from page 1

He noted that the Geary Boulevard corridor is one of the busiest in San Francisco, and 38-Geary buses now serve an average of about 40,000 people a day, while the 28-19th Avenue buses average another 12,000 each day.

The SFCTA projects that, after 2050, a regionally connected subway would have ridership of about 300,000 passengers per day, with up to a third of those riders traveling to or from places outside of San Francisco.

Heidel said 300,000 is also about the equivalent number of BART riders per day that were riding through the Transbay tube before the pandemic.

"We recognize that more housing is coming to western San Francisco," he said. "The recently adopted Housing Element Plan by the San Francisco Planning Department has called for nearly half of San Francisco's over 80,000 new housing units to be built in areas that could be served by a potential Geary/19th Avenue subway. That would make the area one of the fastest growing population centers in Northern California."

He suggested that street buses alone would not be able to handle that many new residents.

At this point, the estimated cost of the project is somewhere between $15 billion and $25 billion.

"Today, southwest San Francisco has some of the highest rates of driving in the City and 19th Avenue is one of the City's most perpetually congested corridors," he said. "We know the people's choice to drive is also often because of the fact that many trips are to and from northern San Mateo County – trips that aren't well served by transit today, so people choose to drive."

The eastern end of the new subway would probably connect somewhere around Montgomery Street or the Salesforce Transit Center.

But why turn south down 19th Avenue instead of extending it to the Outer Richmond?

Previous Geary subway studies had proposals to build yards, storage and cleaning facilities out toward the end of Geary Boulevard.

"There's really not a great place to put that all the way out at the western end of Geary Boulevard or truly anywhere along Geary or 19th Avenue," Heidel explained. "That underscores the importance of being able to tie back in to the regional rail system at both ends, so that we can leverage, potentially, some places elsewhere along the regional transit corridors that are existing, such as the yard at Colma, to help us meet the needs of the system."

They are exploring how a direct connection might be made to BART at Daly City to tie into the regional rail system. And on the other end they might possibly connect at Salesforce Tower Transit Center or an adjacent facility.

It would not replace the Geary BRT because both will be needed to meet future demand.

Although research shows that light rail systems have a positive long-term effect on economic development, the impact on businesses along the route during construction is more uncertain.

"As we zoom in to the Geary/19th Avenue corridor specifically, a lot will come down to the design of the project, the land-use planning decisions that are made and other supportive policies, both in construction and operation, that ensure we leverage the maximum benefits from the project and manage some of the constraints and challenges," Koehler said.

But why not go further out under Geary but then turn south and run the rest of the route under Sunset Boulevard instead?

Previous studies showed that ridership on the 38-Geary buses started to drop off once they went further west than Park Presidio Boulevard in the Richmond, according to Heidel.

As for 19th Avenue versus Sunset Boulevard, if they use 19th Avenue instead of Sunset, fewer people who live between the two in the Sunset District are likely to "backtrack" to make it to the subway, and because of the sandy soil, construction of underground tunnels gets more difficult the further west out into the Sunset as they go out toward the beach and the Great Highway.

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OUTSIDE LANDS
AUG 9-11 2024 · GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO, CA

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
GOLDEN GATE PARK
+ CONCERTS +

Dear Golden Gate Park Neighbor,

Another Planet Entertainment and Superfly Presents, in association with San Francisco's Recreation and Park Department and the City of San Francisco are producing the 16th Annual Outside Lands in Golden Gate Park (Polo Field, Hellman Hollow, Marx & Lindley Meadows), taking place 11:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Friday, August 9th – Sunday, August 11th, 2024. Outside Lands will be followed by a standalone concert in the Polo Field on Saturday, August 17th, 2024, 1:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Outside Lands works closely with all San Francisco Agencies, especially Recreation and Parks Department, SFPD, SFFD, SFMTA, and SFDPH to produce a safe, healthy, smooth, and successful event for San Francisco.

We at Outside Lands care deeply about Golden Gate Park and the surrounding communities. In our first 16 years, we've contributed over $40 million to San Francisco's Recreation & Parks Department to maintain and preserve the most beautiful urban park system in the country. Additionally, we recognize our event's impact on the neighborhood, and work hard to mitigate that effect. Please use this letter as a planning tool to help during the upcoming weeks.

BELOW IS HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEKS IN AND AROUND GOLDEN GATE PARK

Before the Festival

If you have any inquiries before the festival weekend begins related to road closures, site restrictions in Golden Gate Park, or other general concerns, please send an email to **community@sfoutsidelands.com**. For the most up-to-date information on Outside Lands as it pertains to you, please go to: **www.SFOutsideLands.com/311**

Community Hotline: (415) 965-8001

The Community Hotline will be staffed to respond to any issues during the following dates and times:

- Thursday, August 8th, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 9th – Sunday, August 11th (festival days), 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- Friday, August 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 17th (concert day), 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

Parking and Alternative Means of Transportation:

To help alleviate vehicle congestion in your neighborhood, we strongly encourage patrons to take alternative means of transportation to the festival, including MUNI, private shuttles, biking, or walking.

During event days, we will have two dedicated tow trucks and one Parking Control Officer on each side of the Park to quickly respond to blocked driveways or any other parking issues related to the festival. SF Rec & Parks has printed signs alerting attendees to not block driveways. More copies of this notice may be obtained at the front desk of SFPD Richmond Station at 461 6th Avenue. **If you need to have a vehicle towed, please call 311.**

Park Access and Road Closures

Please refer to the map on the back of this letter for road and location closure dates and details.

Note from SFMTA Regarding Blocking your Own Driveway:

SFMTA rules state that it is OK to park in the street and block one's own driveway as long as the driveway does not serve more than 2 tenants. Any multifamily units of 3 or more cannot block the driveway.

During Outside Lands, SFMTA will enforce blocked driveways on a complaint basis only, giving a better cushion for residents. Please note that vehicles may never park over the sidewalk.

For the most up-to-date information on Outside Lands as it pertains to you, please go to:
www.SFOutsideLands.com/311
Para información en español acerca de la Outside Lands Music & Arts Festival, por favor vaya a:
www.SFOutsideLands.com/311
有關此項 Outside Lands 音樂和藝術節活動的中文資料,請上網

Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

The Messy Business of Politics

Over five years ago, I opined in these pages about then U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and her dishonesty in securing $97,000 from California taxpayers as a member of the California Unemployment Insurance Board to which she was appointed in 1993 by her boyfriend Willie Brown, then-Assembly Speaker, while simultaneously paid by Alameda County taxpayers as an Alameda County deputy district attorney, supposedly a full-time endeavor. The following year (1994), she was named to the California Medical Commission at an even higher tax-paid salary which was increased in 1998 to $99,000 per year. Somehow, she evaded a state law prohibiting payment for two jobs which might result in conflicting responsibilities.

Harris did not, however, escape attention from the San Diego Union Tribute which noted that those two state commissions were often condemned by taxpayers from "allow(ing) politically connected people with no experience … to earn large salaries for jobs that are less than full-time." The once-published muck-raking San Francisco Bay Guardian's Savannah Blackwell wrote that Harris possessed no experience at her (then age 30) "to qualify her to oversee the work of 15 staff members who negotiate Medi-Cal reimbursement rates with state hospitals."

She was just starting her self-serving governmental deviance. Raised in Berkeley and residing in S.F., she inveigled District Attorney Terence Hallinan to hire her as a deputy district attorney paid over $100,000 annually. How did she thank Terence who's now deceased? She ran against him in 2003 to prevent Terence, a veteran criminal lawyer, from re-election. By 2003, San Francisco had foolishly been persuaded by Common Cause to adopt public financing of political campaigns for public office, another City Hall mistake to fleece taxpayers to pay money to political candidates. Eligibility rules for qualifying for such taxpayer money included a maximum campaign expenditure. For Harris, it was $211,000.

That didn't deter this ambitious politician. Harris spent $1.15 million emanating from Pacific Heights "swells" and other donors. She was then the object of an Ethics Commission complaint for violating the public financing law. It wasn't a new experience for this grifter. In 2000, while managing then-Supervisor Amos Brown's campaign for re-election, she failed to notify the public of the mailing of two political Brown brochures within the time required by law. (Harris was then an Alameda County deputy district attorney.)

The Ethics Commission eventually found Harris guilty in 2003 of violating her signed declaration under penalty of perjury not to exceed $211,000 in campaign spending for S.F. district attorney. She sent an aide to try to withdraw her oath at the Ethics Commission which rejected such effort. The maximum penalty was $275,000 under San Francisco's ordinance. The weak-kneed Ethics Commission also could have disqualified her and barred her from public office in San Francisco for five years. Instead, it fined her a mere $34,000 and she became our top prosecutor at the expense of the public servant who hired her and obeyed the public finance law, Terry Hallinan.

Harris, of course, should not even have been S.F.'s district attorney, as Blackwell observed in September 2005 in the former SFProgressive.com. Later, as a U.S. senator, Harris pretended she knew nothing about the December 2018 settlement of a harassment suit against a top aide in her office for $400,000 of taxpayer money. Political commentator Dan Walters wrote on Dec. 18, 2018, in Cal Matters, "It seems incredible that Harris would have been kept in the dark about a harassment allegation against one of her closest aides, and the secret payoff that made it go away. That's especially true since Harris has made sexual harassment a touchstone in preparing for a presidential run."

It has been said that: "A true test of a person's character is not what that person does in the light, but what that person does in the dark." Visualizing Ms. Harris as president of these United States makes me fear for the future of our country. Coupled with the Republican Party's candidate, convicted felon Donald J. Trump, we Americans possess little choice on Nov. 5, 2024.

I've been voting since November 1949 and have never missed voting in a national, state or local election. Realizing California is a one-party state, and my vote means nothing as an Independent, I seek suggestions. Should I write myself in as president? No, I'm too old for the responsibilities of our commander-in-chief. Maybe "third party" aspirants will make the ballot.

I'm lost after U.S. Sen. J.D. Vance changed his opposition to Trump for selection as the draft dodger, cheater and liar's vice-presidential candidate. Maybe another American will appear as Wendell Wilkie did futilely in 1940 or Harry S. Truman in 1948. For now, it's bleak. Meanwhile, both candidates are college graduates, and it's observed that: "College is a place that's presumed to mold character, and some of the students turn out to be very moldy!"

To supply relief to our national political predicament, I learned late last month of a needed reconstruction of the American Independent Party, at least in California, under the leadership of Victor Marani, one-time aide to the late state Senator Henry Mello (Santa Cruz County), former Democratic Caucus chairman in the 1980s and '90s when I was a state senator. That party was established in 1968 by then Democratic Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama to enable his candidacy for U.S. president and perpetuate segregation of African Americans. Its existence also affected adversely efforts four years ago to create in California an Independent Party because the California secretary of state ruled that you can't qualify for the ballot from another political party with the word "Independent" in its name, which could confuse voters.

Now, with Mr. Marani as California chairman, the American Independent Party merits membership for voters like me who are officially labeled "No Party Preference" under bipartisan legislation enacted after I left the state senate in 1998 to eliminate Independent as a political appellation. As Mr. Marani of Aptos, California, in Santa Cruz County, declares: "It's time for California to declare independence from the antiquated two-party system … and join the American Independent Party of California today!" It's a new day for true Americans without deceased Alabama Gov. George Wallace and his discriminatory policies doctrine.

In a Jan. 4, 1953, This Week Magazine interview, Carl Sandberg said: "I see America not in the setting sun of a black night of despair ahead of us. I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun, fresh from the burning, creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible for men and women of will and vision."

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

JAMES J. RUSSO, CPA
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These are complex – I can help!
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

Abraham Lincoln High School class of 1974 is having its 50th reunion in September. For information, please find us at facebook.com/groups/A.LincolnHighSchool74 or email at 74mightymustangs@gmail.com.

CIVIC JOY FUND CLEANUP

Help clean up around Blue Heron Lake in Golden Gate Park with Rec. and Park. Meet at Blue Heron Boathouse on Saturday, Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. Sign up here: https://app.heylo.co/event.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stance on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

COMMISSIONED SALES POSITION AVAILABLE

Earn extra income while getting to know your neighborhood and neighbors better. Ad sales for the Sunset Beacon is a fun way to learn more about local businesses. No quota, no set hours, work at your own pace letting business owners know about their advertising options. Healthy commissions. Sales experience helps but is not required. To learn more, call 415-706-6428, or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

DAHLIA DELL RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

The Dahlia Society of California will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new hillside garden at the Dahlia Dell east of the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, Aug. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Free guided tours available to the public at 11 and 11:30 a.m.

DAHLIA SHOW

The Dahlia Society of California's annual Dahlia Show is coming back to Golden Gate Park. Free to the public, this must-see floral fest will be at the Hall of Flowers (San Francisco County Fair Building) at Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17, and from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18. Learn more at sfdahlias.org.

FELTON TECH SQUAD

Felton's Tech Squad is providing free basic tech support for older adults and people with disabilities. Ask questions regarding how to navigate your smartphone, tablet or laptop. Drop-in for a one-on-one session in English, Cantonese or Mandarin. Friday, Aug. 23, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Ortega Library (3223 Ortega St.). For more information, call 415-474-1558 or email techsquad@felton.org.

FREE EVENTS AT THE SF PUBLIC LIBRARY, SUNSET BRANCH
1305 18TH AVE., 415-355-2808, sunmgr@SFPL.org

• Presentation: Healthier Home Cleaning. Learn how to improve indoor air quality and manage household pests with least-toxic methods. The training is provided by S.F. Environment Department to promote healthier home cleaning. Free cleaning supplies are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Saturday, Aug. 3, noon-1 p.m.

• Workshop: Natural Dye Methods 101. Hear about colorful world of natural dyes with Ocean Escalanti. Ocean shares her expertise as a natural dye enthusiast and forager, adept at sourcing local plants for vibrant pigments. From plant identification to dye extraction and application, participants will learn the fundamentals of natural dyeing while gaining insight into sustainable practices and indigenous knowledge. Space limited. Reservations required: 415-355-2808 or sign up at our reference desk (starting Aug. 10). Saturday, Aug. 24, 3-4 p.m.

• Book Club: Sunset Silent Readers. Join us for a silent reading session, followed by a group discussion. Bring any book, fiction or non-fiction, and share your thoughts with us. Registration is recommended: 415-355-2808. This month, we will have a special host, Clifford Louie. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 4-6 p.m.

• Tutorial: Tablet/Smartphone For Older Adults 60+ And Adults With Disabilities. Self-Help for the Elderly's training program is ideal for those seeking to enhance their technical skills. The program focuses on hands-on training, allowing participants to become proficient in using their smartphones and tablets. Bring your device along and prepare to become an expert! Device type: iOS & Android. Topic: Google Maps. Locate current position and route directions. Space is limited. Reservations required: 415-355-2808 (starting Aug. 16) Friday, Aug. 30, 1-2:30 p.m.

GOLDEN GATE PARK BAND

The Golden Gate Park Band's 142nd season of summer concerts series runs until Oct. 6 on Sundays* at 1 p.m. at the Spreckels Temple of Music (aka the Bandshell) in Golden Gate Park. San Francisco's oldest musical organization, founded in 1882, continues a new era of music for San Francisco and the Bay Area. ALL SHOWS FREE! All Welcome! * All concerts start at 1 p.m. on Sundays except Monday, Sept. 2 (Labor Day). Learn more at goldengateparkband.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy August birthday to Emily Bartoli, Anthony Byrne, Tracy Caldwell, Shirley Chan, Wyatt Chow, Matt Craig, Dennis Cresci, Mauna Dasari, Julia Elkin, Jonathan Farrell, Noma Faingold, Teresa Hansell, Chris Huson, Cordelia J, Tracy L. Johnson, Shweta Maurya, Montana McMorrow, Rowen Meck, Cheryl Overend, Alex Rodier, Jordan Singh, Jon Sugar, Sky Tafoya, Farley "How do you eat with those hands?" Tolpen, Chris Traina, Chi-ai Wang, Cy Welle, Jennifer Wong Christina Woo, Francis Woo and Jacob Zwart. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

INNER SUNSET FLEA MARKET

Join us for the Inner Sunset Flea Market on Aug. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., where the theme is "Dog Days of Summer!" Get ready for our annual Parade of Dogs and a fun-filled costume contest with fantastic prizes from Animal Connection. The parade kicks off at 1 p.m., so gather at the East stage at Ninth Avenue and Irving Street to join in. Enjoy live music all day, explore more than 60 unique vintage and secondhand merchants and artists, and partake in family-friendly games and activities. Nestled in the heart of the Inner Sunset, this event offers the perfect opportunity to discover amazing food and local attractions. Don't miss one of the last fleas of the Summer!

INNER SUNSET 2024 FREE FIX-IT FAIR SUNDAY

We'll try to fix anything – except electronics and relations – for free. Yes, for free. No hidden charges, no fees, no gobbledegook. Bring your wobbly, chipped, loose, broken, frayed, splintered, torn, cracked or severed item. If we can't fix it, we'll give you twice your money back. Please bring repair supplies, if possible. 502 Irving at Sixth Ave., Sunday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (last item taken in at 3 p.m.). Volunteers welcome: please call Barbara: 415-246-4748, or email barbara@barbara.com.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

The San Francisco Long-Term Care Ombudsman program offers free, confidential support to address issues raised by residents in long-term care facilities and free training opportunities for those interested in becoming volunteer ombudsmen. For details on training or accessing support, call 415-751-9788 or email ombudsman@felton.org.

OUTER SUNSET FARMERS MARKET AND MERCANTILE

Join us every Sunday at the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile where you can find fresh produce from local farmers and ranchers, enjoy delicious dishes from Outer Sunset eateries and discover unique finds from local makers and artisans. Every Sunday, find a revolving series of live performers, engaging activities and exhibitions at the ArtShip and fun zone! Our farmers market accepts WIC, EBT and Market Match. 37th Avenue at Ortega Street, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Go to sunsetmercantilesf.com or call 415-465-2475 for more details.

'PHOTOS OF THE MONTH' ONLINE GALLERY

Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the "Photos of the Month" gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs on the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

PIANO LESSONS

With my unique teaching method, I will show you how to find every chord on the keyboard – major, minor, sharp and flat – in the first lesson. Then I'll show you how to start playing songs at your very first lesson. No need to be able to read music. Call Michael at 415-706-6428 to learn more.

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Monday, Aug. 5, 8–9 a.m., Outer Sunset Morning Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/604552/.
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2:15–3:15 p.m., Sunset Branch Library Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/645505/.
Sunday, Aug. 11, 1–3 p.m., Great Highway Park Cleanup, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/448138/.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY

The San Francisco Symphony 2024-25 season single tickets are now on sale. Choose from exciting programs with star soloists like Itzhak Perlman, Lang Lang and Yuja Wang; blockbuster films performed live with the Symphony, like "Coco" or "Amadeus"; and special festive events like Día de los Muertos or Lunar New Year. Learn more at SFSymphony.org.

SECONDHAND SATURDAYS

Come check out Secondhand Saturdays and celebrate all things vintage, antique and secondhand. Presented by Sunset Mercantile every third Saturday of the month at Ortega Street and 37th Avenue, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Shop local from more than 50 vintage vendors, makers and artisans that are some of the Bay Area's best. Enjoy live music, family-friendly activities, food trucks, rotating monthly features and more! Visit sunsetmercantilesf.com/secondhand/ for more information.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying "older stamps" from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the Sunset Beacon readers who generously donated or signed up for our Patreon campaign. Your contribution helps keep us financially healthy. If you donated and would like some of our Sunset Beacon branded products (tote bag, pens, coffee mug, hat or shirt), please send an email to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. We would also like to share just your name in the paper to thank you. Please let us know if that is OK. To donate, please visit our website to sign up for our Patreon campaign or send send a check to: Sunset Beacon, P.O. Box 16035, SF, CA, 94116. Thank you!

Announcements: $1 per word, 20-word minimum. Share birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births, obituaries, graduations, sports highlights, business accomplishments, retirements, college admissions, etc.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or submit free community events at no charge. FREE: There is no charge for occasional announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send announcement to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Announcements will run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,200 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (more than 20,000 views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 20th of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116. Call 415-706-6428 or email editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

AN AD THIS SIZE COSTS ONLY $25 PER MONTH
Call 415-706-6428 for information.

Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Streamlined Teacher Credentialing

School is starting up again in a few short weeks, and many parents are concerned about a teacher shortage that many states are experiencing. Here in California, we have taken another step to attract more people into the profession – thanks to recently enacted legislation.

Prior to this summer, candidates for a teaching credential had to demonstrate basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics through one of several options, including passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST). Now, potential educators can satisfy that requirement if they hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution. This change will benefit the vast majority of prospective teachers in our state.

Members of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing have long considered the assessment system of future educators overly burdensome. They have been looking at ways to improve that process. While California has been moving away from standardized testing for teacher candidates for years, most are still opting to take one of the qualifying exams.

However, almost half of our state's potential teachers have struggled to pass the standardized tests required to earn a credential, according to the commission's data. Those numbers have prompted one organization, Public Advocates, to call CBEST a barrier for educators of color. It's concerning when there's a lack of diversity among our teacher ranks because our kids lose out on learning from educators who come from various backgrounds and experiences.

Plus, one exam doesn't capture other appealing qualities of an educator – passion, commitment and resourcefulness among them. To many, including me, it makes no sense to require demonstrated competency in reading, writing and math when the person already has a four-year degree or higher. By counting coursework from colleges and universities as one of the requirements for a teacher credential, we open the career door to so many more qualified candidates.

Accepting a higher education degree as one of the credentialing requirements is a helpful step in addressing our teacher shortage. According to the commission's annual report to the Legislature for the 2022-23 school year, there was an 11% decrease in the number of new teacher credentials issued compared to the prior year. When there aren't enough people to fill these positions, we end up with high teacher-to-student ratios. Learning is impacted when teachers are spread too thin with too many students.

This new change to the credentialing process complements our prior work to attract more people to teaching. In my prior role as Assembly budget chair, we allocated about $1.6 billion in grants and state funding over several years to recruit, train and retain new teachers. We also recently funded eight career counselors for the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to provide one-on-one assistance to anyone interested in becoming an educator. These experienced staff members serve as career counselors, subject matter experts and resource specialists to make the journey into a TK-12 educational career easier.

But the state cannot address the teacher shortage alone. If you know a young person starting their college career with an interest in teaching, I encourage you to help them seek more information about it. Even people wanting to change careers may also want to get into the profession. The California College Corps provides would-be teachers with real-life tutoring experience, and Teach California offers step-by-step guidance for anyone wanting to be a teacher.

We urgently need more teachers to help our kids build brighter futures.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Misdirections Magic Shop

Continued from page 3

of the internet, where people can now just look up how magic tricks work and purchase them online.

"All the magicians come and hang out here," Pon said. "They talk magic. They try to learn from each other. This shop creates friendships within the magic community."

Pon has aided many professional magicians in their success, providing them tricks for their shows and critiquing and fine-tuning their acts. Pictures of Pon alongside other distinguished magicians, including David Copperfield, David Blaine and Penn and Teller, hang on the walls and ceiling of Misdirections, leaving countless customers in awe of him and his accomplishments.

One of Pon's greatest attributes might be his versatility since he assumes complete responsibility for running this one-man shop that attracts visitors from all over the world.

"It's really me all the time. You won't get anyone else," Pon said.

He stocks the shelves, works as the cashier, teaches customers how to perform tricks, arranges lectures and even manages the shop's website and Instagram account.

Pon acknowledges that he has been lucky to have helped so many people. He has had the privilege of seeing 5 year olds in his store who then grew up and are now bring their kids into his shop because magic is timeless. Pon is proud to pass on his knowledge, but he will never just spill his secrets.

"I'm the gatekeeper to all the magic. I'm here to protect the secret, and I will only teach you if I know you are ready. You have to care about the trick," Pon said.

It may be Pon's devotion to the craft and his commitment to welcoming every customer into the magic community that has allowed Misdirections to last for so long.

Misdirections Magic Shop is located at 1236 Ninth Ave. Store hours are Tuesdays-Fridays, noon-3 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays, noon-5 p.m. Learn more at misdirections.com.

Joe Pon's Misdirections Magic Shop has been an Inner Sunset fixture for 28 years. *Photo by George Brown V.*

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Kilduff's Korner **By Paul Kilduff**

"RVing sure is a great way to get away from it all - right?"

KILDUFF

Police Blotter

Arson: 1200 Block of 14th Avenue, July 2, 8:12 a.m.

A witness told officers he noticed smoke and water coming from a ground-floor storage area.

The witness said he opened the door and saw water coming from the fire sprinklers. He also noticed a plastic garbage can was smoldering from a fire.

Attempted Stolen Vehicle, Resisting Arrest: Ninth Avenue and Noriega Street, July 6, 3:30 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of a vehicle theft in progress.

Arriving officers located three vehicles later identified as possibly stolen. The officers also located two suspects.

The suspects fled the scene but were later detained.

After further investigation, the suspects were identified as juveniles and cited.

Assault with a Gun: 1300 Block of 41st Avenue, July 7, 11:12 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a person who had been shot.

The victim stated he was in his vehicle when he noticed he had been shot. Officers rendered aid.

Officers later located a firearm inside the victim's vehicle.

Battery: 2600 Block of 19th Avenue, July 8, 12:46 p.m.

Officers responded to a report of a fight.

The victim told the officers that she was involved in a road rage incident.

The victim followed the suspect. The victim and the suspect got out of their vehicles and started arguing. The suspect spat at and punched the victim.

Driving With a Suspended License: West Portal Avenue and Ulloa Street, July 11, 7:18 p.m.

Officers were on patrol when they saw a vehicle failing to yield to a pedestrian.

The officers conducted a traffic stop and a computer check revealed the driver had his license suspended.

The driver was cited.

Burglary: 1500 Block of Funston Avenue, July 11, 6:29 a.m.

The victim told officers he received notification that the alarm at his job site was going off.

The victim arrived and saw a vehicle double-parked in front of his job site. The victim then heard someone from inside the car honking the horn. The person in the double-parked car fled the scene.

While fleeing the scene, the suspect vehicle hit another vehicle. The victim believed another suspect was inside the job site.

Battery: 100 Block of West Portal Avenue, July 11, 4:52 p.m.

The victim, an employee, told officers the suspect threw a cup at him, picked up a chair and threatened to throw it at him.

The suspect attempted to take the tip jar claiming it was his. The suspect left the scene.

Battery: Funston Avenue and Irving Street, July 14, 5:44 p.m.

The victim told officers she was walking in the area when a suspect reached out and touched her inappropriately.

Officers arrested the suspect.

Robbery: 1300 Block of 10th Avenue, July 16, 11:14 p.m.

The victim was walking on the sidewalk when a suspect approached and pointed a handgun at him.

The suspect demanded the victim's property. The victim handed over his cell phone. The suspect looked at the victim's cell phone and tossed it on the street.

The suspect walked away.

Assault: 1300 Block of 18th Avenue, July 17, 6:19 p.m.

The victim, an SF Public Library security officer, asked a suspect trespassing on the library property to leave.

The suspect got angry and picked up his bicycle and threw it at the victim. The victim was able to dodge it. The suspect then attempted to throw a wine bottle at the victim, but the bottle slipped out of the suspect's hands and shattered on the ground.

The suspect walked away from the scene.

Outstanding Warrant: 1300 Block of Funston Avenue, July 23, 7:50 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of a known suspect with mental illness following people and harassing them.

Officers arrived on the scene and located the suspect. A computer check revealed the suspect had a warrant for her arrest.

The suspect was arrested for the warrant and held for a mental evaluation.

Shoplifting, Outstanding Warrant: 1700 Block of Noriega Street, July 25, 8:48 a.m.

Officers were at a store taking information regarding an earlier shoplifting incident.

While there, the officers were notified of another shoplifting incident in progress by a known shoplifter.

Officers detained the suspect. A computer check revealed a warrant for his arrest.

The suspect was arrested.

Tennessee Grill

Continued from page 1

ing as a cook and a waiter, eventually purchased the business after the previous owner, Min, retired. According to Soe, the name of the Tennessee Grill comes from the original owner, who moved to San Francisco from Tennessee.

"I wanted to improve my life," Soe said. "I had an interest in the food business, so taking on the Tennessee Grill was a big step for me."

Since becoming the owner, Soe has dealt with multiple challenges. Like many businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tennessee Grill suffered. According to Soe, the diner struggled to stay open, only serving takeout orders. Soe cited regular customers as the reason the restaurant stayed afloat.

Some of the Tennessee Grill's regular customers have been coming back for years, even before Soe started working there. Patsy Smith has been dining at the grill since the 1970s. According to Smith, she has been going to the Tennessee Grill since she immigrated from Ireland, eventually bringing her family to eat there.

Smith's son, Tim Okeeffe, never worked at the grill himself but remembers his sister working there. According to Okeeffe, a large part of why he and his family keep coming back to the Tennessee Grill was not only for its affordable prices but also for the diner's ambiance and atmosphere.

"It's always pleasant here," Okeeffe said. "Besides the reasonable prices and great service, it's like a little home. There aren't too many old-school diners like this anymore."

Smith agreed with her son, emphasizing how the Tennessee Grill has always been family oriented.

"You can bring in your family; younger children, but also older folks like coming here too," Smith said. "Almost every time we come here you see someone you know, and I'm happy to see young people come and like it too."

As the owner working multiple days a week at the diner, Soe enjoys the community feeling the Tennessee Grill fosters. Displayed around the restaurant are local news clippings, community postings and posters featuring San Francisco sports teams like the Giants and even the nearby Lincoln High School basketball schedule.

"I always see people from the neighborhood meeting here," Soe said. "They meet over meals, and even I have regular meetings here, too. During the school year, we have a lot of students come in, especially from Lincoln High School."

The restaurant features all of the staples for breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with home-made menu items made fresh daily.

Longtime customers of the Tennessee Grill, John Mecurio and Michael Ford, agree that it is a place that brings the community together. Like Smith and Okeeffe, they both appreciate the diner's lively atmosphere.

"It's just a good neighborhood spot," Ford said. "If we go on a motorcycle run, we'll meet up here and grab some food before we head out."

While the Tennessee Grill is a local favorite, construction on Taraval Street has limited public transportation and parking access to the diner. According to Soe, the construction and inflation of food prices have created challenges for the Tennessee Grill, but he remains cheerful about his future as the diner's owner.

"When you see a lot of customers eating your food, it makes you happy," Soe said. "Overall, business has been good, so I plan to keep selling food."

Learn more at tennesseegrillsf.com.

The Tennessee Grill has been a fixture on Taraval Street since Harry S. Truman was the U.S. president. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

muni Alert Twin Peaks Tunnel Upgrades

Tunnel Closed for Repairs

Thursday, August 22 through Thursday, August 29

During the tunnel repairs, Forest Hill and West Portal stations will be closed. Please use K L or M buses for service between Balboa Park or Zoo and Church station. S Shuttle trains will serve all Metro stations between Castro and Embarcadero. Transfer between Muni Metro trains and K L and M buses at Church or Castro.

J N and T train service will remain unchanged.

SFMTA.com/TunnelClosure

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City Hall

Supervisor Joel Engardio

Upper Great Highway Legislation

This November, San Franciscans will decide whether a section of the Upper Great Highway becomes an oceanside park or remains a road for cars. It's important to note we're only talking about the section between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard, which does not have any on or off ramps for cars.

If there is one issue both pro-park and pro-highway people can agree on, it's that the city needs to implement solutions to keep traffic away from local streets and make it flow better on arterials like Sunset Boulevard and Lincoln.

Above all, westside residents need the City to hear their frustrations and concerns about getting to work, school and important errands. They also need assurances the City is committed to making transparent, data-driven decisions in consultation with communities.

No matter what happens with the Upper Great Highway ballot measure this November, I am drafting legislation that will address the traffic flow improvements we need in the Sunset. We will get traffic improvements whether the ballot measure wins or loses.

Traffic Management Legislation

My legislation will help expedite the planning, development and contracting process for city agencies to implement westside priority traffic management projects. We need to make the City more responsive to westside transportation concerns, wants and needs.

We know the Upper Great Highway south of Sloat is set to close due to coastal erosion. That closure has already been legislated, which means drivers will no longer be able to use the highway as a direct connection to Daly City and Interstate 280. And for many days of the year, the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat is closed due to drifting sand, sending vehicles to alternate routes.

These roadway closures – both planned and unplanned – create unpredictable traffic patterns through our parks and neighborhoods. Many residents are frustrated and feeling that the City is failing to coordinate and adequately manage current traffic as they move across the west side.

Park or no park on a section of the Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat, I remain committed to improving the flow of traffic so our communities in the Sunset and Richmond districts remain connected to one another.

Read more about the legislation at engardio.com/blog/westside-traffic-management.

Park Planning Legislation

I'm also drafting legislation for a park planning process among city departments, should voters pass the ballot measure this November. This legislation is being drafted in collaboration with Supervisor Myrna Melgar. Her westside district borders the Sunset and includes the Great Highway south of Sloat.

A robust planning process would allow for all stakeholders to participate as necessary approvals for a future park are obtained from city and state agencies.

We need to ensure those who are wary about a potential park are listened to. I've heard concerns over traffic, environmental and small business impacts. I believe additional studies and analysis can be used to inform mitigation measures throughout the park's approvals process. We must be equipped to respond with data and evidence highlighting community development potential, habitat restoration opportunities and broad-based economic benefits.

This companion legislation to the ballot measure picks up where pilot legislation left off. Some have wondered why the ballot measure strikes language from the 2022 pilot legislation that enabled traffic studies. Those studies were completed and now we need to call for additional studies in anticipation of a full-time park.

Going forward, we will legislate a new planning process should voters decide to close the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat to cars full time. It's important to note that if the ballot measure wins, the current weekend pilot will continue as-is. There will be a long and public process about the how/what/when of a transition to a full-time park. It won't happen overnight. It could take a year or longer of status quo. It will still require state Coastal Commission approval.

Addressing Traffic Concerns

I understand why people are nervous about turning one section of the Great Highway into a park. I get that being stuck in traffic or not being able to find parking means spending less time with family. It's a concern I take very seriously.

My husband and I drive the same roads and deal with the same traffic that every Sunset resident endures. We don't want more traffic on Sunset Boulevard and we don't want drivers speeding through our neighborhood streets as shortcuts.

As we plan this park, we can ensure westside residents can still get to work, take their kids to school, and drive an elderly parent to the doctor.

Also, remember it's already been decided that the section of Great Highway south of Sloat will close due to coastal erosion — California's Coastal Commission will not let the city rebuild this road at the expense of the beach. Without a direct connection to Daly City, we have to think about what is the best use of the section between Lincoln and Sloat.

The latest SFMTA traffic data shows that Great Highway traffic is down nearly 40% from pre-pandemic highs. Even traffic on Sunset is down 30%. There is capacity on Sunset to absorb the Upper Great Highway traffic. Read the report: engardio.com/sfmta-great-highway-study-2024.

We are currently making improvements to traffic flow on Sunset Boulevard, like moving the bus stops to the other side of the intersection, so cars don't back up behind the bus when people are getting on and off. It'll become easier for drivers to make right turns. And we can time the traffic signals on Sunset better. Replacing the stop signs along Lincoln with traffic signals will make a huge difference. We're also putting a traffic signal at the three-way stop at Skyline and Sloat.

Even without these improvements, the latest traffic study from June of this year says the travel time from the Richmond to Sloat via Lincoln/Sunset is only a few minutes longer than going down Great Highway to Sloat.

The Political Reality

I've always talked about the pending closure of the Great Highway south of Sloat due to coastal erosion and how it would create the opportunity for a permanent oceanside park between Lincoln and Sloat. This language has been on my website and platform since my campaign in 2022.

While I agreed with many residents that the weekend compromise was good, a lot has changed in the past two years. A ballot measure to reopen the Great Highway to cars 24/7 failed both citywide and in the Sunset. Supervisors voted 9-2 to reject removing Fridays from the weekend closure. Advocates wanting to open the Upper Great Highway to cars failed multiple attempts to appeal the compromise, all the way up to the Coastal Commission. And the Board of Supervisors has already voted unanimously to protect the oceanside wastewater treatment plant from coastal erosion – a project that requires closing the Great Highway south of Sloat.

This November's measure was put on the ballot with five supervisors along with support from Mayor London Breed. As a single supervisor, I cannot unilaterally put a measure on the ballot or remove it.

A majority of the Board of Supervisors currently supports closing the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat. And there will likely be a supermajority in January willing to legislate a closure in 2025.

There won't be another election until June 2026. By then, the Board of Supervisors will have likely closed a section of the Great Highway. That's why I believe we must let voters have a say this November.

A ballot measure lets residents who oppose a park organize against it. And it gives supporters a chance to make their case for why we need it.

Imagine the Benefits

For residents who are opposed to the park or undecided, I invite you to imagine the benefits of transforming the section of the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat:

- It's good for the environment as we face coastal erosion and climate change.
- Small businesses throughout the Sunset district will benefit. Two train lines offer a direct ride to the beach. Locals and tourists alike will become new neighborhood customers as they hop off the train for lunch, dinner, or drinks on their way to or from the park.
- Generations of kids will learn how to ride a bike and play in a car-free space, seniors will have better access to the coast, and communities will have a gathering place to celebrate art, music, and culture.
- We can improve traffic flow so residents can still get where they need to go.

What to do with the section of the Upper Great Highway between Lincoln and Sloat is a policy issue that reasonable people disagree on. Our coast is not owned by drivers, cyclists or one neighborhood. It belongs to all San Franciscans.

I believe voters should get to hear the facts and make their own decision. Every voter deserves to have their voice heard.

Joel Engardio is the District 4 representative on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He can be reached at engardio.com/contact.

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SFMTA Board Approves Compromise Traffic Plan After West Portal Tragedy

By Thomas K. Pendergast

After the original plan to change the traffic flow on West Portal Avenue was scrapped because of merchant outcry, a compromise plan was approved by the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

"The outcome is not everything that everyone would have wanted, because that is impossible in San Francisco and everywhere else," District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar told the Board. "My goal was to have the bell curve of an issue that was very controversial, have most people in the middle be able to live with it and I think that that's what we've achieved.

"We still have folks who oppose it on both sides; those who think that it doesn't go far enough in addressing the risks and then folks who think nothing should happen at this intersection ever."

Melgar said the decision reached represented a compromise.

"I think that we are somewhere in the middle, addressing not just the risks in front of the station but also doing a bunch of safety improvements in the intersections in the entire corridor on the streets that are surrounding that," she said.

Although changes to the merchant corridor's traffic rules have been contemplated for years, it was the deaths of members of a family waiting at the bus stop near the West Portal Muni station and in front of library which spurred officials into action.

On March 16, Brazilian national Diego Cardosa de Oliveira, 40, and his son, 1-year-old Joaquin Ramos Pinto de Oliveira were both killed when an SUV driven by 78-year-old Mary Fong Lau was speeding and driving the wrong way when it jumped the sidewalk curve.

The mother, Matilde Moncada Ramos Pinto, 38, died later in a hospital and their 2-month old infant, Caue Ramos Pinto de Oliveira died on March 20.

Fong Lau has since been charged with four counts of vehicular manslaughter.

"I think that the project has come to a reasonable middle place, somewhere in between the different sides, and I think that a lot of what we're doing is a work in progress," SFMTA Board Director Dominica Henderson said at the July 16 meeting when the Board approved the plan.

"What has been presented shows a response both to the tragedy but also to

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Dahlia Diversity

Continued from page 1

co is especially friendly to the flowers. To promote local cultivation, members of the Dahlia Society hold an annual plant sale in the spring and often have some plants for sale on Tuesday and Saturday mornings in Golden Gate Park's Dahlia Dell next to the east side of the Conservatory of Flowers.

Dahlias have a long history in San Francisco. On Oct. 4, 1926, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the dahlia as San Francisco's official flower because, "its versatility, its beauty and its infinite variety of color and form make it the very symbol of San Francisco life and of the spirit of her people." Anyone who visits the Dahlia Dell will understand this somewhat flowery sentiment. The Dell's main display consists of a gated patch surrounded by asphalt and packed with 700 named varieties of dahlias – as dense and diverse as the City itself.

During the absolute peak season for dahlias, typically the last week of August through the first week of September, the Dahlia Dell is bursting with fanciful blooms, which are tended to by a group of dedicated volunteers. Each plant has its own individuality and unique nameplate: "Fancy Pants," "Badger Twinkle," "Candy Corn," "Kung Fu Kitty," "Mystic Fantasy," "Irish Glow" and "Soul Shine," to name just a few. The Dahlias are in bloom from late July through November.

Dahlias have been on display as "San Francisco's flower" in Golden Gate Park for 100 years but are native to the mountainous regions of Mexico and Guatemala. History has it that Spanish Conquistadors learned of dahlias from the Aztecs, who cultivated them for food and medicine.

The plant known to the Aztecs consisted of a starchy tuber and an unremarkable, daisy-like bloom. That changed in the late 18th century when the tubers made their way from Mexico to Europe, where botany was evolving as a science. European botanists learned that dahlias could be easily "hybridized" through artificial cross-pollination to change their colors and forms. They quickly produced a myriad of colorful, decorative varieties.

Indeed, botanists named the plant after one of their own, Swedish botanist, Anders Dahl. The brilliant blooms of the new dahlia varieties took Europe by storm. Marie Antoinette, Josephine Bonaparte and Queen Victoria were all said to be early enthusiasts.

Today, growers have been able to hybridize 21 distinct forms of dahlias in 15 official colors, resulting in thousands of varieties. However, no one has ever been able to cultivate a blue dahlia.

"Life is better with dahlias," Dietz said.

The Dahlia Society of California's annual Dahlia Show is coming to Golden Gate Park this month. Free to the public, this must-see floral fest will be at the Hall of Flowers (San Francisco County Fair Building) at Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way on Saturday, Aug. 17, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Aug. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn more at sfdahlias.org.

Tim Wong (left) and Erik Gaensler get their hands dirty attending to the Dahlia Dell in Golden Gate Park. *Courtesy photo.*

Dahlia Society of California members Deborah Dietz (left) and Sarah Smith help cultivate the flowers in the Dahlia Dell east of the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park. Every summer, the garden bursts with blooms of just about every color (except blue). The display is packed with many of the 700 named varieties of dahlias. *Courtesy photo.*

Above: Steve Dibner shows off a couple of flowers representing the diversity of the blooms. *Courtesy photo.* Right: One of the hundreds of varieties of dahlia flowers. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

'About Place' Exhibit at de Young Museum Explores Notions of Place and Identity

By Noma Faingold

The new show "About Place," opening on Aug. 10 at the de Young Museum, carries an adaptable theme, which could mean any number of things to the 10 Bay Area artists being exhibited.

"We tried to find a throughline among these very different artists with very different backgrounds, who use very different mediums," said Janna Keegan, associate curator of contemporary art and programming for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, who organized the exhibit.

"The notions of place and identity, these artists are thinking about having a more balanced relationship between the land and the people who are on it," Keegan said. "Co-nurturing, self-sustaining – one really looks at the land as part of ourselves, instead of something we can make into something. These artists are asking important questions."

The work of Saif Azzuz, 36, a Pacifica-based artist featured in the exhibit, is informed by his Yurok and Libyan heritage, his familial roots in Eureka, California, as well as his immediate studio surroundings at the Hunters Point Shipyards.

The abstract, mixed-media piece is titled, "Lo'op' (It burns)" and was acquired in 2022 by the FAMSF, along with 41 other contemporary artworks by 30 emerging artists, through a $1 million grant from the Svane Family Foundation focused exclusively on Bay Area artists.

Created in 2021, "Lo'op' (It burns)" is part of the artist's ongoing "Invasive Species" series, which he refers to as portraits, rather than landscapes. The "About Place" piece is composed of hues including burnt orange, mauve, crimson and ochre, sprayed on top of invasive plant species and bouquets found near Azzuz's studio, which have been laid on top of the canvas.

"That palate is pulled from fire maps at the time, with red being the worst," he said.

Azzuz's work has been shaped by such themes as colonization, gentrification, culture, resiliency of community and ecological inheritance, even before he earned his bachelor's degree in painting and drawing from the California College of the Arts in 2013.

"I think about the land a lot," Azzuz said. "The land holds so much story."

Saif Azzuz will have his work featured in the upcoming exhibition "About Place" at the de Young Museum. ***Photo courtesy of Saif Azzuz and Anthony Meier, Mill Valley. Photography by Adrian Martinez.***

The husband and father of two often asks himself, "What am I doing to take care of the land?"

"It keeps me engaged and presents questions to the viewer," Azzuz said. "A fun thing about being an artist is we're tasked with asking questions and not providing answers."

According to Keegan, Azzuz does not think there is a separation between land and self.

"It's part of a mutually informing identity," she said. "His abstractions are appealing visually, but it's the conceptual underpinnings that tie back to the indigenous community. This approach to art and nature challenges the dominant narrative that we've been hearing for so long."

"About Place" is the second in a series of three exhibitions derived from the Svane acquisitions. Last summer's show was called "Crafting Radicality." This year's show includes 10 artists, including Azzuz, Chris Johanson, photographer/filmmaker, Katy Grannan, Ruby C. Tut and the artist collective, Postcommodity.

A multi-channel video and sound installation called "Going to Water" (2021), by Postcommodity, will be featured prominently in the de Young's central atrium, Wilsey Court. Surveillance video of the arid Lake Owens (located east of Los Angeles) will be combined with an experimental soundtrack.

"It was drained (in 1926) to provide water to the Los Angeles community. It was an important meeting place for indigenous communities when it was still a lake," Keegan said. "The way the piece is put together gives a feeling of what happened there and the sense of loss."

There will also be a collaboration with the SFJAZZ Collective, Oct. 24-27 in the music venue's Miner Auditorium. The collective's seven-person musical ensemble will compose new material and arrange familiar songs inspired by select works from the Svane acquisition. Video of the artworks will run accompanying the live performances.

"About Place" is a showcase for 10 emerging Bay Area artists, Aug. 10, 2024-Sept. 28, 2025, at the de Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr. Learn more at famsf.org.

Janna Keegan, associate curator of contemporary art and programming for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. ***Photo by Noma Faingold.***

Above: Dale, Pacifica (II), 2007, by Katy Grannan. She has three photos in the exhibition, part of a series. ***Photo courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Museum purchase, a gift of The Svane Family Foundation.***

Left: "Lo'op' (It burns)" by Saif Azzuz. ***Image courtesy of the artist and Anthony Meier, Mill Valley. Photography by Chris Grunder, San Francisco.***

Middle Lake Reconstruction

Continued from page 4

ing around the 14-acre area, vegetated stone edges, terraced wetland shelves, fallen trees and rectangular blocks cut from old trunks for benches line the path. There is roughly hewn wooden fencing and the entire area has been landscaped.

Sunset resident Olive Hackett-Shaughnessy said she has lived in the neighborhood since 1979, back when there really wasn't a lake there.

"When the stables had horses, I used to ride from the stables through here. There was nothing here at all, just trees," she said. "The path was always there, by that road, but nothing here. I saw foxes running through here. It was an unused, unpathed part of the park."

Hackett-Shaughnessy approves of the new "beautiful" lake.

"I'm very grateful to the parks department for being so creative with this space. And I have been, through the whole process, watching it and watching it and watching it; How many people does it take – architects, landscapers, laborers, horticulturists – to cooperate and make this?" she asked.

"And I appreciate that there's not biking or skating on these paths, it's just for walking. I really appreciate that decision."

While there are at least five wooden obelisks bearing symbols clearly marking that no bicycle riding is allowed on the path, three different people were seen doing just that on a Sunday afternoon, despite children all around and elderly folks using walkers.

The signs are small, measuring 2.5 inches horizontally and the same vertically.

Jessica Wu and Bryce Williams said they did not notice the signs as they sat on a bench near Chain of Lakes Drive with their mountain bikes behind them.

It is their first time at Middle Lake after riding their bikes from Pacifica along the Great Highway. They decided to include a visit to the new lake they had read about.

"I think we'll come back and walk it more just so we can see more of it but from where we're at, it's really nice," Wu said.

Williams said he has no problem

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'Then and Now': 48th Avenue Between Moraga and Noriega Streets

Left: The view north on 48th Avenue between Moraga and Noriega streets on July 25, 1924. The sandy street is graded, but not paved. *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.* Right: This Aug. 1, 2024, photo – almost exactly 100 years since the original picture was taken – shows more houses, a paved road with vehicles and a lot more utility wires. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Lou's Cafe Uses Word-of-Mouth Advertising to Grow Its Bay Area Businesses

By Michael Leung

In 2010, Mark Brodeth and his family started a family-run establishment on Geary Boulevard in the Richmond District called Lou's Cafe. For five years, the cafe grew in popularity through word of mouth. Eventually, Brodeth and his family were able to open branch locations in other parts of San Francisco and the Bay Area.

Brodeth is currently the manager at the Lou's Cafe branch located on Taraval Street near 25th Avenue. In addition to making sandwiches, he also interacts with his customers and enjoys making them happy by serving them food.

"Seeing them happy makes me happy," he said.

The inspiration to open Lou's Cafe came from his mother. Brodeth said she was the main caterer at Andronico's for 35 years and had a passion for making sandwiches. Her passion inspired the rest of her family. Brodeth said he and his brothers always had an interest in food and they gained a love for making sandwiches by watching their mother work.

They also used to eat many sandwiches growing up, which helped inspire them to specialize at Lou's Cafe. Brodeth said he and his brothers tried many of the local shops in San Francisco, such as Little Luca's and Ike's Place, and modeled Lou's Cafe after them.

"The one that inspired us the most is Roxy's Food Center." Brodeth said. "They would toast sandwiches, and we thought, 'Oh, if they can do it, why can't we do it as well?'"

Lou's was not immediately successful. Brodeth said that when they first opened, they did not see much business. However, after customers started spreading the word about Lou's creations through word of mouth, Brodeth and his family found a major increase in customers.

Eventually, Lou's Cafe was successful enough to open a restaurant on Taraval Street. There are also two locations downtown San Francisco, on Pine and Battery streets, and one in San Carlos.

Like the location on Geary, the Taraval branch did not get much business when it first opened. However, after a few months, business started to pick up.

"When we first started here, it was a little bit slow. But after a few months, word of mouth started getting around and we got busier," Brodeth said.

Lou's Cafe currently has five branches, each with a family member managing a location. The Taraval cafe can seat 20 people at a time and has a menu with a large selection of sandwiches, including a build-your-own sandwich option. Some popular selections include the Roma's Club, with turkey, bacon, avocado and pastrami, the Ami-cado, with pastrami, avocado and salami with Lou's special sauce, and the Hot Pastrami, with pastrami brisket and cheese.

A regular customer who calls himself Weasel frequently works in the Sunset. He said Lou's Cafe is generous with their servings.

"You don't have to wait that long like other places," Weasel said. "And plus, the other places are cheap on the meat; Lou's gives you a good amount."

Brodeth said that the success of Lou's can be attributed to its large customer base. He said he and his employees try to be as hospitable as possible and make their customers feel welcome. He said that it is thanks to them that Lou's is so successful. Without their support, Lou's Cafe wouldn't have grown as much as it has.

Manager Mark Brodeth (left) with members of his sandwich-building staff at Lou's Cafe on Taraval Street in the Parkside neighborhood. *Photo by Michael Leung.*

Philo, a regular who has been going to Lou's Cafe since 2015, says the staff is very welcoming.

"I come here because of the people," Philo said.

Like many businesses, Lou's Cafe found doing business was a struggle during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, Brodeth saw his business steadily declining because of the lockdown. Brodeth said they were worried they would have to close down like many other small businesses during the pandemic. However, they noticed that there was an increase in online orders. Thanks to the transition to online delivery, Lou's managed to survive the impact of the pandemic.

"We started using DoorDash, Uber Eats, GrubHub and Postmates just to generate more business. And that helped us a lot," Brodeth said.

Brodeth said that he and his family hope to continue to grow Lou's Cafe. He said they hope to eventually turn Lou's into a franchise. They have no plans to do so at the moment but will expand when the opportunity allows it.

Lou's Cafe is located at 1508 Taraval St., at 25th Avenue, 415-682-4083. For more information, visit louscafesf.com. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Middle Lake

Continued from page 12

with bike-free paths around the lake.

"I'm fine with that. It's got too many curves. To me it's obvious that you don't want to ride on it," he said. "This is a good walking path and there's plenty of bike lanes throughout the City.

"If anyone loses it on a turn because they're just going too fast, there's not much room. It doesn't need to be a biking path," Williams said.

They both approved of the lake's rehabilitation.

"It's nice to see people out and enjoying it," Wu said. "I think during shelter-in-place you would see a lot of folks out and about. I think people have gotten more comfortable being back in their homes and back into their routines. So, when you are out, it's nice to see others enjoying it too."

But was it all worth the $10.8 million price tag?

"Actually, that's pretty cheap. We have projects that are bigger than that," said Williams, who works for a construction company that does remodeling.

"We've done remodels that were more expensive than that. It's expensive but for this, it seems like a pretty good deal."

Hackett-Shaughnessy also thinks it was money well spent.

"Does it make the next generation care about the environment and nature? Yes," she said. "Does it give us a place to rest, mentally? Yes. Does it give work to people who know how to use the land? Yes. What's to lose?"

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Protesters Against Upper Great Highway Ballot Measure Descend Upon City Hall

Continued from page 1

something like this in your desk and take it out on the last possible day for submitting things to the Department of Elections, so that they force us to have things like this so we can talk about it," Corriea said. "We're going to continue to talk about it and I can tell you this, the west side is going to be less safe, merchants won't do as well, and someone needs to pay attention to that."

But at least one supporter of converting the highway into a park also showed up at the rally.

Lucas Lux, volunteer president of the Friends of Great Highway Park, thinks it is a great idea.

"It's an incredible, positive opportunity that we should embrace in a city with incredible open spaces," Lux said. "This is our next opportunity to open the ocean front for people to enjoy in more ways."

Capt. Sherman Tillman of the San Francisco Fire Department, however, called for a "harmonious coexistence" between cars, bicycles and public transportation, which he says the Upper Great Highway already has as it is now. Tillman stressed that he was only speaking for himself as an individual, not as a representative of the fire department.

"Cars, bicycles and public transportation each serve a vital role in our daily lives," Tillman said. "Cars provide convenience and flexibility; bicycles offer sustainability and health benefits. And public transportation promotes efficiency and environmental conservation. It is only through the integration and cooperation of all these modes of transportation that we can truly achieve a balanced and harmonious urban ecosystem.

"Now guess what? There's something like that that already exists; it's called The Great Highway," he said. "Two blocks from there, there's this thing called Golden Gate Park. When you think about urban planning, you have everything at the Great Highway. It's already there. That is the model for the future."

"A park isn't necessary on the west side. It's needed on maybe the east side," Lope Yap said at the demonstration. "We already have two great parks: GGNRA (Golden Gate National Recreation Area) and Golden Gate Park."

More than 100 opponents of District 4 Supervisor Joel Engardio's ballot measure to permanently close a stretch of the Upper Great Highway to private motor vehicle traffic protested against it on July 23 outside of City Hall. *Photo by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

But this argument does not sway Lux.

"We have one ocean front. We have zero ocean front parks," he responded. "Opening the ocean front for people to enjoy is an incredible opportunity and San Franciscans have voted with their feet, that they enjoy an oceanfront promenade."

Lux cited statistics he said were gathered over the last four years during a "pilot program," which shut down the highway for the pandemic and then later on weekends only.

"Just simply by closing a gate to cars during this pilot, it has become the City's third-most-visited park with over 10,000 visits every single weekend. Those are people who could go to Golden Gate Park but they want to enjoy the ocean."

But Marie Hurabiell thinks the impact of closing the highway to motor vehicles will affect westside residents disproportionately.

"The people who are out there are impacted every day when it is closed," Hurabiell said. "I don't think it is fair for us to put this to a vote for the entire City, that is not impacted by this, and put it all on the people who are impacted by it.

"These are people who need to get to work, who need to get their kids to school, who need to get their elderly parents to appointments," she said. "This isn't about creating a park, by the way. This is about creating an abandoned road. The legislation only closes the road to cars. It does not create a park."

But Lux had a different take on that as well.

"Where our City meets the Pacific Ocean is one of the most special places in the City. That space belongs to everybody in the City. Those of us who live close to the ocean are really lucky, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't share it. That is a shared asset for the whole City and the whole City should have a voice in how our sole ocean front is used."

Corriea said the closure will contribute to congestion of traffic heading south through Golden Gate Park.

"Take a look at Chain of Lakes Drive in Golden Gate Park on closure days on the Great Highway and you're going to see bumper-to-bumper traffic there," he said.

Plus it will force traffic off a safe highway and onto side streets.

"It puts cars in the neighborhoods rushing and speeding by on the Lower Great Highway in those outer avenues on the west side, and removes a route for emergency vehicles.

"I can guarantee you, from my 35 years of experience in public safety, that response times for emergency vehicles that are trying to traverse north and south on the west side of the City is increased when the Great Highway is closed. We're going to guarantee a 24/7 increase by this."

Lux claims the legislation specifically authorizes emergency vehicles to access the space.

Yet another ongoing issue that might be affected is the homeless population that congregates in RVs along that same stretch of the adjacent Lower Great Highway.

Lux doesn't think closing down the upper stretch of highway and converting it into a park will attract more homeless to that area.

"I would point to how well our parks are managed throughout the City. We don't see that problem across all of our parks," he said.

"As someone who lives in the neighborhood, that has been a problem for decades and people who've lived there a long time can tell you that the problem used to be much worse. Today it's not as bad, but that being said, the main point again is our parks are very well managed. They can handle this."

'Tiger's Eye,' Sunset District's Newest Beauty Bar, Opens on Judah at 31st

By Klyde Java

Riding the N-Judah streetcar past 31st Avenue, one can see the seeds of a new beauty salon beginning to bloom where the former Sunset Strip Cafe once stood.

Tiger's Eye Beauty is the Sunset District's newest beauty bar. It is set to kick off with a grand opening showcase on Aug. 3. The showcase will feature a gallery of local Bay Area artists, a plethora of local vendors and a meet-and-greet with the shop's owner, Raquel Payne.

Payne, the 37-year-old esthetician and entrepreneur, is a self-described "one-woman show" and has been involved in the beauty industry for more than a decade.

The salon derives its name from the Tiger's Eye stone which symbolizes courage and stability for Payne. She first encountered the crystal in 2013, and it has been a recurring motif throughout her life.

"When I was in the third grade, these boys used to make fun of me because I have a birthmark in my eye, and they used to call me "cat eye." The Tiger's Eye stone looks like my eye. This is the stone of my life," she said.

Payne was raised in the Mission District and has always held an interest in beauty products. When she was younger, she often applied her mother's face masks and admired the joyous feeling it gave her. As Payne grew up, she gradually became the family's beauty specialist, often doing her younger sister's hair and makeup for special events.

Payne was a stay-at-home mother after the birth of her son, but soon after decided to pursue a career. Her natural inclination toward beauty and skincare gave her an easy career choice.

"By that time, I was 26 or 27 and I'm like, 'I want to do something for the long run,'" she said.

"I just thought, 'I love beauty. I love how it makes me feel.' When I'm having a bad day and I do a mask on myself at home, it feels so good. It's good for your soul. You're happier when you walk out and you're more pleasant for everyone else. I think I was trying to tap into what I wanted to share with the world and what's needed in the world," she added.

Payne got her start working at a local skin-care clinic called the Pretty Parlor in the Mission. In February of 2022, Payne opened her first Tiger's Eye Beauty in Pacifica, marking the beginning of her entrepreneurial journey.

Raquel Payne, owner of Tiger's Eye Beauty: "I love beauty. I love how it makes me feel." *Photo by Klyde Java.*

When Payne moved to the Sunset last October, she noticed an opportunity.

"I'm driving around to see what my new neighborhood spots are and I noticed there weren't a lot of skin care shops. There's a lot of mani-pedi places and hair salons, but there's not a lot of beauty salons. If I was someone who didn't do this for a living, that's something I would want," she said.

She decided that a new location would help fill this void as well as bring her closer to her husband who works as a firefighter at Fire Station No. 18 on 32nd Avenue near Pacheco Street.

For Payne, the Sunset is an extension of Pacifica. Both cities share scenic coastal views. To her, it all feels part of one place. Besides the similarities in geography, there is a calmness found in the two neighborhoods.

"It's quaint. I can hear the birds chirping and I love that," she said. "Whereas if I'm deeper in the City, it's not like that. Everything is drowned out."

When the shop opens, Payne hopes to bring the comfortable and welcoming aura of her Pacifica location to the Sunset.

"I want people to feel urged to come in and see what Tiger's Eye is about because it's beyond skincare and beauty," she said.

Tiger's Eye Beauty is located at 2605 Judah St. Learn more at tigers-eye-beautybiz.com.

Living Beyond Labels: Navigating the Medical Needs of a Family With Disabilities

By Kate Quach

Marni Rosen (left) helps her 13-year-old son Zeke navigate his experiences with PACS1 Syndrome, a rare genetic condition. *Photos by Kate Quach.*

Rosen works with board certified behavior analysts to support Zeke during specialized activities and sports.

A gram scale sat with its stainless-steel face open on Marni Rosen's kitchen counter. Numbers flashed, calibrating the small spoonsful of high-fat cooking oil, butter and heavy whipping cream that Rosen prepared. She eyed the ticking digits to their precise tenth decimal, remembering the strict instructions from the Epilepsy Center in a local San Francisco children's hospital. After a debilitating series of Electrical Status Epilepticus in Sleep (ESES) seizures nine years ago, Zeke, Rosen's then 4-year-old son, began a meticulous, medically managed ketogenic diet.

Protocol from clinical dietitians directs mealtimes. From breakfast to dinner, high fat foods packed into small dishes have nearly completely replaced carbohydrates and protein-rich ingredients. In turn, Zeke's midnight seizures, Rosen observed, steadily declined. The progress was such that Zeke could be taken off the highly specialized diet.

"It was all consuming, but it was worth it," said the mother. Still, dietary needs were not the only source of challenge for Zeke and his family.

When Zeke was a year old, Rosen noticed signs of developmental delays in her son. Zeke's diagnosis of PACS1 Syndrome, a rare genetic condition, impacted the ways he verbalized his needs and directed his bodily movements. Rosen scrolled through online forums and blogs daily, hunting for a community that could relate to her son's experiences; the syndrome's scarcely reported nature demanded hours of research, stretching her time thin between prioritizing her full-time job and her role as a single provider.

"There was never enough time in the day. It was really hard to find more information about how to navigate a specific issue with his behavior or with his developmental needs," she said. "There wasn't a clear community of parents that I could reach out to. There was a separation of families on the spectrum that have autism organizations and families that have Down Syndrome organizations." Her fingers raced across her laptop keyboard; digital chat rooms became an outstretched hand to other parents. Rosen eventually began patching together information and advice from families across the spectrum to help her son.

Zeke, now 13 years old, routinely visits the beach, laughing while dashing across the sand. Not far behind him trots his service dog, Lupin. Years of climbing Canine Companions' waitlist led to weeks of in-person training. With Zeke as a teenager, Rosen said, his service dog provided an extra layer of support as he entered a new stage of youth.

"The raging hormones period of life is challenging for all kids, but there's a particular kind of challenge for a kid who has more difficulties around communication and speech and experiences his body in a different way than a neurotypical child would," she said.

A single mother, Rosen birthed and raised twins: Zeke and Maizie, her neurotypical daughter. Teenage Zeke's schedule busied him year-round with afternoons at the Pomeroy Center, group baseball practices in the Sunset District, speech therapy sessions, and camps from San Francisco Therapeutic Recreation Inclusion Services. Yet in his infancy, Zeke spent many of his days at the doctor's office for routine checkups.

During one visit, Zeke and Maizie sat cradled on their mother's lap. Rosen fidgeted in her seat, listening to the sounds of the bustling children's hospital hallways to pass the time. The doctor informed her that he would deliver printouts containing information about her children's health and points of improvement. When the door flung open, the doctor stepped in carrying a single sheet of paper in his hand. Rosen frowned at the lone page only detailing her daughter's growth. Believing the doctor made a mistake, she asked for Zeke's printout.

"You don't want to see that," the pediatrician told her, brushing away her request.

For a moment, Rosen's words lodged in her throat from shock and disbelief. She thought she could trust the doctor to recognize Zeke's disabilities as part of him rather than an embarrassment.

"I absolutely wanted my son's printout," she said. "I wanted to review my son and my daughter's milestones. I wanted him to be treated with the same respect as my daughter in this environment. It was heartbreaking."

Finding health providers that embraced Zeke's skills and differences became Rosen's main priority. She leaned on local pediatric neurologists and psychologists to communicate her son's developmental progress. At the autism desensitization dental clinic, Zeke familiarized himself with the equipment and appointment procedures. Still, Rosen said, she continues to struggle with the school district for years to bring a board-certified behavior analyst (BCBA) into his classroom for direct support. A BCBA could observe Zeke during school hours, providing Rosen with necessary insights that she did not witness while she was at work. The analyst could collaborate with Zeke's special education teacher to develop new methods of assisted learning.

Zeke and his mother often turned to their district's special education teachers for resources, yet many children with disabilities across the nation grapple with locating such educational opportunities. According to the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services with the U.S. Department of Education, "45% of schools reported vacancies in special education roles" in 2023. Difficulties hiring such educators heightened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, along with educators' mental burnouts and wages. Rosen's network of pediatricians and educators built up her family.

One evening, Rosen flipped through the pages of the twins' favorite bedtime story. In their years of early childhood, the siblings shared a room. Maizie snuggled close, nestling beside her mother while following along with the words. Zeke, curled up in his crib with his back facing his sister and mother, already seemed to doze off. Then, while in the process of managing his ketogenic diet, the potential for an ESES episode loomed over Zeke.

Before Rosen could read out the final page, Maizie tugged at her mother's arm.

"Mama, Zeke's having a seizure," said the little girl.

Rosen looked over at her son; the blanket over his shoulders rising and dipping softly matched the beats of his steady breathing. She shifted her hand to reassure her daughter, yet halfway through her sentence, Zeke began seizing in his sleep.

"She actually knew he was having a seizure before it was visible to me. That happened often when they were small," Rosen said, still stunned as the memory replayed in her mind. "They definitely have a special connection. I think that connection remains for them now, too."

On the baseball field, Rosen kneels beside Zeke, bringing him into her arms. Navigating medical and educational spaces for her son meant continual pursuits of new information about PACS1 syndrome. She has shelved away the meal scale and calculator, but her sensitivity toward Zeke's needs have strengthened. Rosen's push for accepting health care providers and school systems motivated a fierce affirmation within her:

"Don't take no for an answer. Be like water; find another path."

West Portal Traffic Plan

Continued from page 11

what sounds like had been in the works – some need for traffic calming – for some changes at different intersections in the area, in the neighborhood. And so I think that this is a good starting place."

The new plan establishes Muni-only lanes along West Portal Avenue northbound to Ulloa Street for 230 feet, and southbound from Ulloa for 120 feet, plus westbound from West Portal Avenue to Lenox Way.

A major renovation of the Muni station is planned as well, including planters and obstacles that would prevent cars from traversing the area immediately in front of the station.

It will also establish a one-way street going southbound on Lenox Way between Taraval and Ulloa streets.

Pedestrian crossing beacons will be added to Ulloa and Wawona streets, 10-minute parking and a passenger loading zone will be added to Lenox Way on the east side of the street, plus a tow-away no-stopping zone.

Traffic calming speed tables will be installed along Wawona between Vicente Street and 14th Avenue.

Blue and red zones will be added on the north side of Vicente, and a no-stopping school bus loading zone will be installed on the south side of Taraval running east of Lenox Way.

Cars traveling northbound on West Portal will have to turn right onto Ulloa. Meanwhile, westbound on Ulloa vehicles will not be allowed through the intersection but will have to turn left and go onto West Portal Avenue, and southbound on West Portal they will not be allowed to make a left turn onto Vicente Street.

Going eastbound on Ulloa, they will have to turn right onto West Portal Avenue.

The initial plan was scrapped because of a backlash from residents and merchants.

Three more months were given to form a citizen advisory committee to form a consensus from evaluating impacts to parking and traffic congestion.

After Muni-only lanes were reduced and other changes were agreed upon, the committee approved the new plan but with a caveat.

They called for a pilot study on traffic, safety and the economic impacts of additional transit lanes and turn restrictions.

During public comment at the Board meeting, Bruce Halperin also said the current plan does not go far enough.

"I urge you to reject this halfhearted plan and approve the original proposal with all turn restrictions, including physical barriers that will protect pedestrians by removing conflict points and prevent cars from blocking Muni trains entering and exiting the tunnel," Halperin said. "Every time a safety plan is presented it always get watered down in the name of compromise. This is often done at the insistence of merchants who, studies show, nearly always overestimate the share of their customers who arrive by car and underestimate the share arriving by foot, bike or transit."

Rachel Clyde, a community organizer with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, however, spoke in support of the plan.

"We are glad to see that in this compromise design there are still traffic-calming measures for Ulloa, Vicente and Wawona streets," Clyde said. "And while we liked the original design with all the turn restrictions and the transit only lanes, we're glad that parts of that were still kept.

"We are also excited for the positive possibilities that will come from turning Lenox Way into a one-way street and turning the horseshoe into a community transit hub."

The SFMTA's project manager Liz Brisson also wants to go further sometime in the future.

"To me, the idea of transit lanes all the way down West Portal makes sense as a medium- to long-term objective," Brisson said. "There's a significant double-parking problem on West Portal Avenue.

"And there are significant complications with the commercial loading that can't really be solved unless we do something like converting the angled parking to parallel parking, which would decrease the supply of parking, and I don't think that is what the neighborhood is ready for right now. That is an interim step that is going to make sense before a transit lane really provides the kinds of benefits we might want to see here," she said.

SF Bay Area Pro-Am Basketball League Returns to GG Park's Kezar Pavilion

By Yovany Moreno

The 2024 season of the San Francisco Bay Area Professional-Amateur Basketball League, better known as the SF Bay Area Pro-Am, is back this summer. Eight teams from San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area are competing and showcasing their talents in front of families, fans and scouts.

With the season in full swing and teams vying for playoff spots, the intensity is palpable. Best of all, the games are completely free to the public, allowing basketball enthusiasts to enjoy competitive pro-am basketball at the historic Kezar Pavilion throughout the summer – an experience that will soon come to an end.

The SF Bay Area Pro-Am league uniquely blends professional and amateur players. Established in 1979 by Jon Greenberg, a former NBA referee, the league has successfully run for more than 40 summers. Initially held at the Potrero Hill Recreation Center, the games were moved to Kezar Pavilion due to its growing popularity.

Kezar Pavilion, built in 1924, exudes an old-school charm but lacks modern amenities, like air conditioning. The spotlight shines on the center court while the stands remain dimmed, offering an intimate setting that contrasts sharply with larger venues, like Madison Square Garden in New York, or San Francisco's Chase Center, where jumbotrons and halftime shows dominate the experience. At Kezar, spectators can sit close to the action, and during halftime, kids are invited to take the court and shoot some baskets until the buzzer sounds.

Jon Greenberg's passion for the game drives the league's mission. As he stated on the league's website, his goal was to "share his passion for the game by organizing a summer league where amateur players could further develop their skills and even play against some professional players from all around the world." Greenberg emphasizes that "opportunity is the operative word," highlighting the league's role in opening doors for aspiring players.

For those trying to make a name in basketball, the Pro-Am league presents an invaluable opportunity.

"The league is NCAA and NBA approved and features current and former college, high school, and recreational players, along with national and international pros," Greenberg explained. "There are no league tryouts; each team has an open roster policy, allowing coaches to add players throughout the season."

Notable NBA players who have graced the Pro-Am courts include Steph Curry, Jeremy Lin, Aaron Gordon, Gary Payton, Kevin Johnson, Gilbert Arenas, Brian Shaw, Jason Kidd and Kurt Rambis, who was actually discovered at the Pro-Am. Their participation elevates the competition while allowing them to hone their skills during the summer.

Friends Ben Sakdi and Shawn Scallan attend an SF Bay Area Pro-Am game at the Kezar Pavilion. Photo by Yovany Moreno.

The league's open-door policy welcomes players from around the world to test their abilities at Kezar Pavilion. On any given night, from Monday through Thursday, fans can witness local and international talent competing fiercely. Miles Lewis is a talented player for SF City under coach Carl Jacobs.

"I was born in Oakland, grew up in Sacramento, and just transferred to Cal Poly," Lewis said. "I drive up here; it's part of my life now."

Another standout player is Alex Gil-Fernandez, a Mexican American from Palo Alto, who possesses meticulous footwork. He recently led the South Bay Spartans to a 109-99 victory over the Oakland Believers. Gil-Fernandez shared that he has played for Cal State San Marcos and internationally for the Dorados de Chihuahua in Mexico.

The diversity of players at Kezar Pavilion makes for a unique atmosphere, extra special given that admission is free. Longtime basketball enthusiast Ben Sakdi has attended every game since the league's inception.

"I love coming to the games," Sakdi said.

While sitting alongside his friend Shawn Scallan, Sakdi reminisced about memorable moments, including watching legends like Kurt Rambis and Jason Kidd.

"You can see that guy over there in the blue jacket? That's James Pain. I watched him in 1981 when he scored six three-pointers in a game, and now he's 73," Sakdi said with a smile.

Scallan confirmed Sakdi's dedication.

"He hasn't missed a game," Scallan said. He added that the second half of the season typically sees the arrival of bigger names. "You can check sanfranciscoproam.com for the schedule, history and legends who have attended. You can always find us here; we sit right here."

However, this year marks the last summer at Kezar Pavilion before renovations begin on the 100-year-old pavilion. According to the SF Recreation and Park Department, in partnership with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), Kezar Pavilion will be remodeled to enhance recreational activities and serve as a disaster response facility in case of emergencies. This project is set to commence in the fall.

Regular season games take place Monday through Thursday at 8 p.m. in June and July. Playoffs will begin on Aug. 5. The location of future Pro-Am games after this year has yet to be determined. Learn more at Sanfranciscoproam.com.

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